



DESERT WHEELS

NATIONAL GUARDSMEN AWARDED SOLDIERS MEDALS

Three Soldiers traveled into Iraq on a routine convoy mission unaware that a fatal accident would quickly turn their lives around, put their training and instincts to the test, and earn them one of the Army's highest awards - the Soldiers Medal.

Maryland Guardsman Staff Sgt. George Brosenne, 243rd Engineer Company, and Wisconsin Guardsmens Staff Sgt. Tyler Gerrits and Sgt. Jeffrey Diederichs, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, were recognized recently for their heroic efforts to save the lives of three comrades. It started during a routine October convoy as the infantrymen provided security for the engineers that were transporting equipment and supplies into Iraq. A traffic accident turned deadly when Sgt. Brian Conner, Cpl. Bernard Ceo and Cpl. Samuel Boswell's vehicle burst into flames. The Soldiers were members of the 243rd Engineer Company.



SSG George Brosenne

responded to the incident immediately. While Diederichs provided security the other two ran

to the burning vehicle. With no regard to the flying shrapnel or their personal safety they began searching for the trapped Soldiers.

"I knew that the one guy was still alive and I had to get him out," said Gerrits, who is a civilian paramedic for the Allouez, Wis., Fire Department.

"Instincts took over," said Brosenne. "If that was me, and I was the one needing help, I



SGT Tyler Gerrits

these Soldiers earned them the prestigious award.

"You stand as a symbol," said Maj. Gen. James Kelley when he presented Brosenne's medal Friday at Camp Arifjan. Kelley is the deputy commander of Third Army. "As we salute you, we salute the best in American tradition."

"In my heart I know that everyone in this battalion would have done the same," Maj. Gen. Bruce Casella told the Soldiers at Navistar when presenting Gerrits and Diederichs medals Saturday. Casella is the commander of the 377th Theater Support Com-

mand. "I know this by the way you conduct yourselves and epitomize the Army values every day,"

The Soldiers Medal is awarded to service-

members who perform heroic actions and risk their lives to save others. While the Soldiers take credit for only doing their jobs, their commands feel otherwise.

"These Soldiers here represent the quality of all Soldiers in this battalion," said Lt. Col. Todd Taves, 2-127th commander during the Navistar ceremony.

"These are Soldiers who were asked to put their skills to the test and followed through. We are proud of both of them."

"Today is a tribute to a great man, Soldier and great American hero," said Kelley during Brosenne's ceremony. "We shall not forget them, you, or what you've done."

By Sgt. Crystal Rothermel
377th Theater Support Command
Public Affairs



SGT Jeffrey Diederichs

28TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION EN TEMPS!



Happy June En Temps! En Temps Warriors everywhere continue to expand their reputation for excellence in the battle space and on the homefront! If you checked out the Griffin Time Keeper, you'll see that at the beginning of June HHD, LTF 28 is 83.21% complete with our boots on ground time. I just returned from R&R leave at Mannheim and took the time to visit Coleman Bks and our Rear Headquarters...I am happy to report all is definitely well!



LTF 28 Softball team "Shock and Awe" won the Camp Arifjan and ASG Kuwait tournaments.

As for HHD, LTF 28, though we can see light at the end of the tunnel, we have been too active to get enamored with it getting closer, as OPTEMPO has served to keep us quite busy. Fact is,



simultaneous to our preparations for redeployment HHD, LTF 28 integrated more capability into its ranks and the En Temps family. During the month of June we strengthened our combat power by adding Army Watercraft assets/Soldiers to our formation and began executing watercraft operations. The 163 TC Det and 481st TC Det from Hawaii are now part of our team and have bolstered the capabilities we bring to the fight. Both units are currently conducting operations in the Arabian Gulf. In the midst of this happening, our replacements (24 TC Bn from Ft Eustis) have hit the ground running and "Operation Return

with Honor" is in full swing. As we depart, our stellar Artillery Combat HET units (B/1-77 FA & B/5-3 FA) are prepared to carry the mission forward and finish their mission with distinction. As the mission continues on, our Artillery Combat HET transporters continue to "hold the line" and raise the bar of excellence, courage, professionalism, and expectations in the battle space. Through it all, we are fortunate to have each other to lean on as we forge forward to see our mission through on multiple fronts - training, preparing, executing, learning, reintegrating, and

Soldiers from LTF 28th and 24th Trans Bn work together during the right seat/ left seat ride

transforming as we fight. We are truly an expeditionary combat force and a unit in motion! Now more than ever it is important that we remain committed to our



SPC Hunt and PFC Barnes of B 1-77 FA in the LTF 28 motor pool



SFC Reynolds of B 1-77 FA works on a HET

quest, both individually and collectively, to continue striving to be a professional, warrior-based unit with a reputation founded on character - combat readiness - and honor as our inherent values!

Our standing mission is to "Return With Honor" as a unit that embodies the conscience and integrity to make the hard-right choices, to exude the Warrior Ethos, and to live up to the Army Values.

CSM and I continue to be im-

mensely proud of everyone in the En Temps family and urge all Soldiers to do their part to ensure the words "Return with Honor" resonates in all our Soldiers (and Units) lineage, history and character as we do our part to win the War on Terror...

That said - we are counting on you to: Stay Strong, Stay Focused, Stay Optimistic, Stay Smart, Be Safe, and fight complacency at all costs!

Do it with...

STRENGTH & VIGILANCE!

Article and photos submitted by CPT Cara Mezzetti & SPC Josephine Ampley

180TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION KING OF THE ROAD!



Greetings from Kuwait. The Soldiers of the Battalion have been busy as of late with the transfer of two Air Force detachments to our family.

Our Airmen had a productive month, conducting a relief in place (RIP) with the outgoing Airmen, a convoy live-fire exercise, and the transfer of equipment and personnel to the LTF.



SGT Aguilar, C 1-12FA mans his 50-cal machine gun

We continue to conduct our combat convoys throughout Iraq and also continue to improve our 'fighting positions' to enhance our operations even though we are approximately a month from redeployment. We want to ensure we leave the incoming units with a first class operation so they can focus on their Soldiers and their



SGT Blackwell, A 5-113FA's Personnel Sergeant multitasks

combat mission. Several units are preparing to receive their replacement units and also preparing to redeploy. We must maintain a combat focus in order to accomplish our mission and come home safely.

The encouragement from families, friends and loved ones in invaluable and we strongly urge support groups to maintain the momentum a bit longer. The Soldiers are doing a great job and it is very normal to begin thinking about returning and rejoining our loved ones back in the states.



The 406th TTD got the official word this month that they will be returning to FT Hood this August with the Battalion HHD

A word of caution is to take it slow, don't expect miracles over night, and some situations may not live up to their expectations. There is a reintegration process when families are separated for a year or more, so do not make expectations too high. Many say absence makes the heart grow fonder, but it also creates or exaggerates pre-existing issues. The redeploying Soldier and the loved ones waiting must both work at the re-integration process and be very understanding. The Global War on Terrorism is a worthy cause and we are making



BG Barr and LTC Moseley lead LTF 180th on the Army Birthday Battalion run

progress daily in Iraq. Freedom does cost and we are ensuring the Iraqi citizens enjoy the same liberties we do.

The weather continues to heat up. Everyday the thermometer reaches 115 degrees or more, and the seemingly constant wind makes the bad weather even worse.

We celebrated the Army's 231st Birthday with a Battalion run and had the oldest and youngest Soldier cut the Army birthday cake.

On 16 June we inducted several Sergeants into the Noncommissioned Officer Corps in a traditional ceremony.

*Article and photos submitted by
CPT Jennifer Geddie*



CSM Adams & SGT Goicoechea cutting the cake at the NCO Induction Ceremony.

2ND BATTALION, 127TH INFANTRY STRIKE FORWARD!



As this year draws to a close, we of the 2-127 Infantry want to say thank you to the other units in the brigade. It has been a long year, worthwhile, with shared difficulties and shared successes. Many of the troops from battalion to battalion have become friends. Certainly they've all learned from each other. And certainly these young men in our battalion, and young men and women in the other units of the brigade will go back home or to their next postings a little more experienced, a little older and wiser, hopefully continuing to serve.



CPT Brion Aderman, CDR B Co at the Scania haji market

Some of the highlights for us, this year, have been:

- Simply getting here: finishing up training at Camp Shelby, the transition into theater, getting our feet wet.
- The Surge . . . we ran at over 90% capacity for several weeks. We joked that we'd have to put our TOC on wheels and cut a hole in the roof to put a gunner up there if we got any busier.



RSE moves a pipe from the MSR

- Preparation for K-Crossing, conducting route reconnaissance and planning to set up our successors, 1-121 FA, for this pending mission change.
- Leave. A much needed break!
- Warlock fielding. It's seemed to have a positive effect already and the addition of LT Atencio to our staff has been a great resource.

Seeing the light at the end of the tunnel: these last two weeks everyone walks around camp greeting each other with 'Just a few more weeks'.



SPC Rochelieu waits at Ali Al Salem for his R&R flight

Thanks again for this year. It has been our honor to provide security on this important mission.



End of mission!

Article and photos submitted by CPT Benjamin Buchholz

COMMANDER AND COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR



Greetings family, friends and loved ones from our little oasis in the sand. July is here and we are standing with one foot in the sand and one out the door. Before we lift off we must congratulate everyone in our circle. From the Rear Detach-

ment and the family support group, to each and every Soldier, Airman and civilian involved in our deployment, all of you are directly responsible for the successes we have accomplished. Every piece of the operating pie has significantly impacted the wartime mission.

Once back to home station the focus must not slip. We have many critical tasks to accomplish

yet for this to be "Mission Complete". Remember and expect changes in the community, friends and family. We must be vigilant to ensure our Battle Buddy is re-adjusting back to the realities of home life. Again, we commend you for all the hard work all of you have done.

One Team, One Fight!

SEMPER ROTANS!

828TH JOINT LOGISTICS TASK FORCE DRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE!



It was nearly one year ago that the members of HHD, Joint Logistics Task Force 828th arrived in Kuwait, eager and prepared to take on

their mission.



LTC Moreland and CSM Commenia-Hill prepare to case the Battalion colors



The Soldiers of HHD, JLTF 828

The Battalion, led by LTC Dave Moreland and CSM Commenia-Hill, provided command and control of five subordinate units, including two watercraft detachments, and two Air Force truck detachments. The addition of Air Force assets was the first time Airmen had joined Army Soldiers in a transportation mission.

The Battalion conducted more than 9,000 missions providing

Common User Land Transportation (CULT) throughout Kuwait and Iraq. The 400 Soldiers and Airmen of the Battalion traveled over 25 million miles bringing critical equipment and supplies to the Warfighter.

On July 10th the Battalion HHD held their Mission Complete/ Awards Ceremony and will return to their mobilization station this week.



BG Keith Thurgood, CG, 143d TRANSCOM, awards the ARCOM to SGT Dunigan (above left), and the MSM to MSG Sheckles (above right)

DESERT CLASSIC IS A BIG HIT



It was a typical July day in southern Kuwait. Scorching heat. Unrelenting winds beating stinging sand into the faces of those brave, or dumb

enough to venture outdoors. Not the ideal conditions for any outdoor activity, especially golf. And yet they came.

More than 75 Soldiers and Airmen, comprising 19 4-man teams competed in the 37th Trans Group Desert Classic Golf Tournament held on 7 July.

COL MacNeil addresses the golfers

The event included Longest Drive and Closest To The Pin contests, and a 10-hole course set up around the Zone I

softball field. The tournament was concluded with an awards ceremony and raffle. Tournament and raffle winners received golf



CPT Harding, HHD 180th competes in the longest drive competition

clubs donated by Callaway valued at over \$10,000.

Congratulations to the following teams and individuals:

1st Place Team – A 5/ 113th FA:

SFC Thomas Powell, SFC Brent Silver, SSG Reginald Parker, SPC Michael Oliver

2nd Place Team – S3 Team, 37th Trans Group: LTC Christopher Benoit, MAJ Michael Knox, CPT Andre LeBlanc, CPT Jeremy Neilitz

3rd Place Team – HHD LTF 28: LTC Steven Farnen, CSM John Burney, CPT Shane Cuellar, CPT Shawn Salmon

Longest Drive – PFC Anderson, B 5-3 FA

Closest To The Pin – SPC Krob

LTC Farnen and CPT Neilitz pick out their prizes



37TH TRANSPORTATION GROUP DINING IN



On Sunday, July 9th more than 200 Officers and Noncommissioned Officers attended the 37th Transportation Group Dining In.



37th Transportation Group Color Guard

Although taking place in a combat environment, the event was a traditional one, with a few exceptions.

To facilitate the large number of Soldiers and Airmen at the event, the President of the Mess, COL Michael H. MacNeil, appointed two Mr. Vice's. 1LT Roderick Little, 243rd En Co, and 1LT Scott Olsen, B Btry 5-3 FA took a political approach to their responsibilities as Mr.'s Vice; acting as the 'Hard Right Conservative' and 'Liberal Left'.

Following photos and the receiving line, the event kicked off with a grand entrance from the Mr.'s Vice.



Mr. 'Right' Vice, 1LT Little, takes a swing at Mr. 'Left' Vice, 1LT Olsen.

Instead of the customary punch bowl, the Dining In committee had to get creative and use

a large soup kettle inside a HET tire as the Grog Bowl. Due to the lack of alcohol, units came up with some interesting Grog ingredients.

Guests dined on Lobster Tail and Steak, provided by the Zone VI DFAC, while being entertained with various points of order brought to the attention of Mr.'s Vice.



CSM Burney, 28th Trans

Proceeding dinner was an awards ceremony and re-



ISG Harrill, B 1-12 FA, CSM Adams and LTC Moseley, 180th Trans Bn execute a mission during dinner

marks by the Guest Speaker. 33 individuals were inducted into the Ancient and Honorable Order of St. Christopher, the patron saint of the Transportation Corps. MG Thomas Robinson, Commander, 377th TSC, offered a motivating speech.

The evening was wrapped up with entertainment provided by each Battalion.

CPT Pace, HHC 37th, takes a drink from the Grog Bowl



GOODBYE FRIENDS!

The Group bid farewell to several individuals in the past month.

BG Charles Barr, CG, 143d TRANSCOM, relinquished his duties on June 10th to BG Keith Thurgood. He returned to Kansas where he owns his family farm. He was a Soldier's leader and will truly be missed.

COL Timothy Fucik, 37th Trans Group DCO departed in mid-July to attend the

Army War College. He will return to Kuwait upon completion of the course and join the 143d TRANSCOM staff.

Far Left: COL Fucik receives the Bronze Star from BG Thurgood.

Near Left: BG Barr, outgoing CG, 143d TRANSCOM.

